

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

21. (Currently Amended) An oral mouthrinse composition for reducing nerve sensitivity comprising:

(a) from about 0.01% by weight to about 520% by weight of an orally-acceptable, soluble potassium salt;

(b) from about 0.01% by weight to about 10% by weight of a sodium (C₈-C₂₄) alkylsulfate;

(c) from about 0.01% by weight to about 20% by weight of an orally-acceptable polar surfactant, said surfactant selected from the group consisting of a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acid mono or diester of ethoxylated sorbitan, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acid diester of polyethylene glycol, a sodium salt of a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl sarcosinate, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl ester of sarcosine acid, a sodium salt of a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl taurate, a sodium salt of a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl methyltaurate, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl ester of taurine, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl ester of methyltaurine acid, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl betaine, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl quaternary ammonium chloride, dimethicone copolyols, polydimethylsiloxane phosphate esters, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol phosphate esters, polydimethylsiloxane phosphobetaines, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol phosphobetaines, polydimethylsiloxane taurates, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol taurates, acetylated polydimethylsiloxane copolyols, and polydimethylsiloxane quaternium compounds, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol quaternium compounds comprising a hydrophobic portion selected from the group consisting of a (C₆-C₃₀) alkyl group and a polymeric silicone group; and

(d) an orally-acceptable aqueous vehicle comprising from about 50% to about 85% water;

wherein the potassium salt is dissolved in the composition and wherein the molar ratio of the surfactant of (c) to the sodium (C₈-C₂₄) alkylsulfate is greater than or equal to about 1:1 such that when a.), b.), c.) are dissolved in d.), the resultant composition is clear..

22. (cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An oral mouthrinse composition according to claim 21, wherein the soluble potassium salt of the composition comprises a potassium pyrophosphate salt in an amount effective, optionally in combination with other pyrophosphate salts, to remove or loosen plaque and/or stains when the composition is orally applied to a dental surface.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An oral mouthrinse composition according to claim 21, wherein the soluble potassium salt of the composition comprises soluble potassium salt that possesses activity in reducing dental nerve and/or dentin sensitivity in an amount effective to reduce dental nerve and/or dentin sensitivity when the composition is orally applied to a dental surface.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An oral mouthrinse composition according to claim 24, wherein the soluble potassium salt that possesses activity in reducing dental nerve and/or dentin sensitivity is potassium nitrate.

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26. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ oral mouthrins composition according to claim 24, further comprising a flavoring that does not comprise a substantial amount of menthol.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ oral mouthrins composition according to claim 26 wherein the flavoring that does not comprise a substantial amount of menthol is a mint flavoring.

28. (cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ oral mouthrins composition according to claim 21, wherein the soluble potassium salt is selected from the group consisting of a potassium pyrophosphate salt, potassium nitrate, and mixtures thereof.

30. (Currently Amended) An oral composition in the form of a rinse for reducing dental nerve and/or dentin sensitivity comprising

(a) from about 0.1% to about 5% potassium nitrate;

(b) from about 0.02% to about 2% SLS;

(c) from about 0.1% to about 20% by weight of an orally-acceptable polar surfactant, said surfactant selected from the group consisting of a (C6- C30) fatty acid mono or diester of ethoxylated sorbitan, a (C₈-C₃₀) fatty acid diester of polyethylene glycol, a sodium salt of a (C₈-C₃₀) fatty acyl sarcosinate, a (C₈-C₃₀) fatty acyl ester of sarcosine acid, a sodium salt of a (C₈-C₃₀) fatty acyl taurate, a sodium salt of a (C₈-C₃₀) fatty acyl methyltaurate, a (C₈-C₃₀) fatty acyl ester of taurine, a (C₈-C₃₀) fatty acyl ester of methyltaurine acid, a (C₈-C₃₀) fatty acyl betaine, a (C₈-C₃₀) fatty acyl quaternary ammonium chloride, dimethicone copolymers, polydimethylsiloxane phosphate esters, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol phosphate esters, polydimethylsiloxane phosphobetaines, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol phosphobetaines, polydimethylsiloxane taurates, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol taurates, acetylated polydimethylsiloxane copolymers, and polydimethylsiloxane quaternium compounds, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol quaternium compounds~~said surfactant comprising a hydrophobic portion selected from the group consisting of a (C₈-C₂₄) alkyl group and a polymeric silicone group;~~ and

(d) an orally-acceptable aqueous vehicle comprising from about 50% to about 85% water;

wherein the potassium salt is dissolved in the composition and wherein the molar ratio of the surfactant of (c) to the sodium (C₈-C₂₄) alkylsulfate is greater than or equal to about 1:1 such that when a.), b.), c.) are dissolved in d.), the resultant composition is clear..

31. (Currently Amended) An oral composition in the form of a rinse for removing or loosening plaque and/or stains from dental surfaces comprising

(a) from about 0.1% to about 5% of a potassium salt selected from the group consisting of dipotassium pyrophosphate, tetrapotassium pyrophosphate, tripotassium pyrophosphate, monopotassium pyrophosphate, and combinations thereof;

(b) from about 0.02% to about 2% SLS;

(c) from about 0.1% to about 20% by weight of an orally-acceptable polar surfactant, said surfactant selected from the group consisting of a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acid mono or diester of ethoxylated sorbitan, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acid diester of polyethylene glycol, a sodium salt of a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl sarcosinate, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl ester of sarcosine acid, a sodium salt of a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl taurate, a sodium salt of a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl methyltaurate, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl ester of taurine, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl ester of methyltaurine acid, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl betaine, a (C₆-C₃₀) fatty acyl quaternary ammonium chloride, dimethicone copolyols, polydimethylsiloxane phosphate esters, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol phosphate esters, polydimethylsiloxane phosphobetaines, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol phosphobetaines, polydimethylsiloxane taurates, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol taurates, acetylated polydimethylsiloxane copolyols, and polydimethylsiloxane quaternium compounds, polydimethylsiloxane copolyol quaternium compounds~~said surfactant comprising a hydrophobic portion selected from the group consisting of a (C₆-C₃₀) alkyl group and a polymeric silicone group; and~~

(d) an orally-acceptable aqueous vehicle comprising from about 50% to about 85% water;

wherein the potassium salt is dissolved in the composition and wherein the molar ratio of the surfactant of (c) to the sodium (C₈-C₂₄) alkylsulfate is greater than or equal to about 1:1 such that when a.), b.), c.) are dissolved in d.), the resultant composition is clear...

Claims 32-36 (cancelled).